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The Washington News

A SCRIPPS-HOWARD NEWSPAPER

"Give light and the people will find their own way."

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Potatoes and Traffic

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The faster we
faster they jam up. We are living on
luck, and self-staggered hours, and the
people who get up at dawn to beat the
rush and breakfast in town, and those
pioneering car pools, the voyageurs, who
commute by fantastically devious routes
thru residential areas, dodging the traps

and bottlenecks like men in a checkers
game.

The new autos are coming out now.
More people will buy them. More wives,
stuck in the suburbs, will insist on a
second car. More kids will want jalopies.
And so it goes.

Wage-earners will only earn wages as
long as they can get to work. They
make it now by the grace of God. To-
morrow—who knows?

Next Monday, Congress' joint com-
mittee on Washington metropolitan
problems opens hearings on the pro-
posed mass transportation plan, which
calls for a start on a rapid transit
system.

The transportation study, alone, al-
ready has cost half a million dollars.
To carry out its most modest proposals
will cost billions more.

Congress would first pass legislation
setting up a Federal corporation to plan
action on the common transportation
problems of the District, Maryland and
Virginia. Hopefully, this would eventu-
ally lead to a regional transit authority
which, of necessity, would mean surren-
dering some measure of local autonomy
and local control of the tax burden.

Will the public buy it?

We doubt that there's much choice.
The alternative to a bold, far-sighted
traffic plan for the Washington area—
looking 50 years ahead—is likely to be
what we said: Instant mashed potatoes,
almost any day.

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